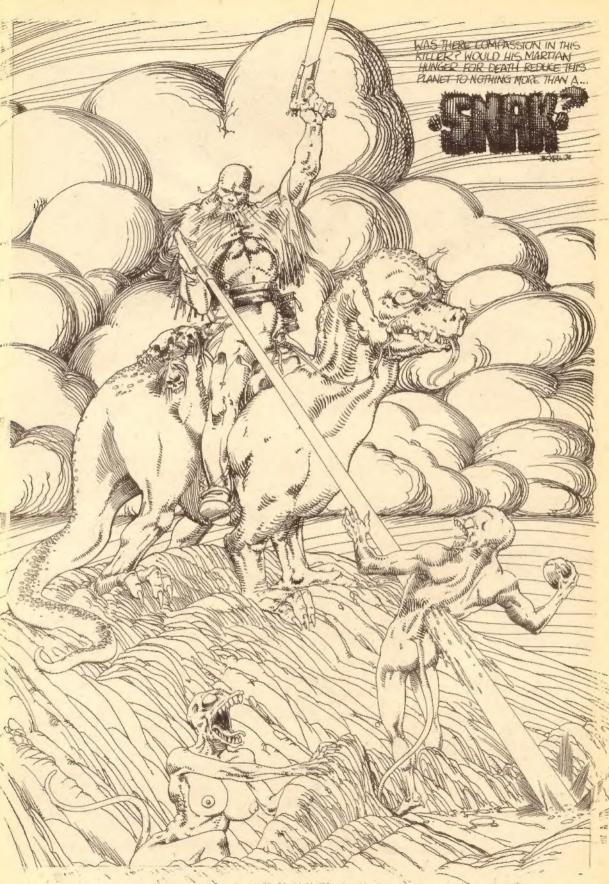
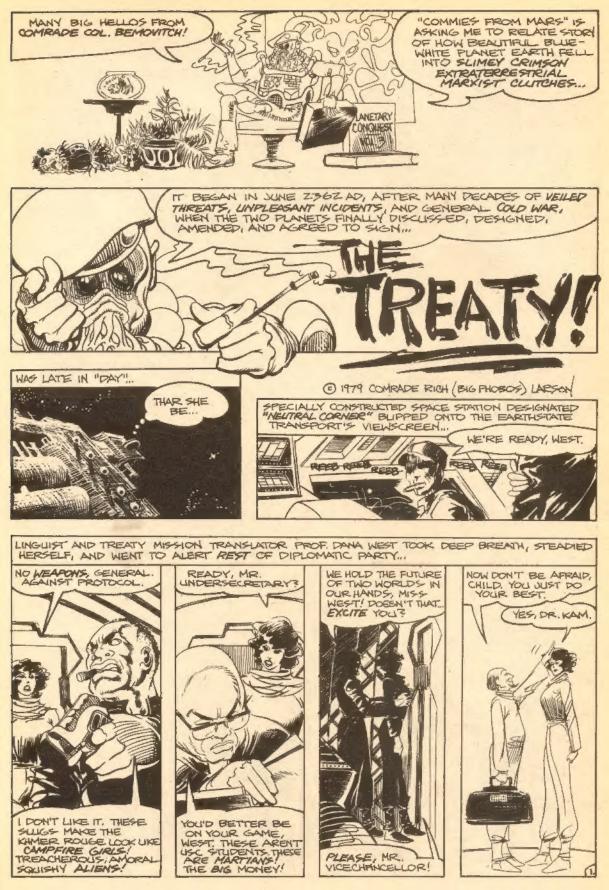


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PROLOGUES THE MARTAN CLEM UP FORCE RAKED THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET SLOWLY, METHODICALLY. FOCUSED RAYS OF ANNIHILATING ENERGY CHURNED ITS SURFACE, DESTROYING ITS ECOLOGY, DISRUPTING ITS SISTEMS, LEAVING CHARRED, FRAGMENTED REMAINS IN THEIR WAKE. ONESHIP BROKE AWAY AND LANDED AS THE SQUADREN MOVED ON TO ANOTHER TARGET. SOME LIFE FORMS ALWAYS MANAGED CLEAN UP WASN'T COMPLETE UNTIL THE PLANET COLD BE CERTIFIED TO SURVIVE. IT WAS HIS TASK TO DEAD. AND IN SPITE OF THE LETHAL SEE THAT THEIR SURVIVAL WAS BRIEF. ASSAULT IT HAD SUPPERED ...







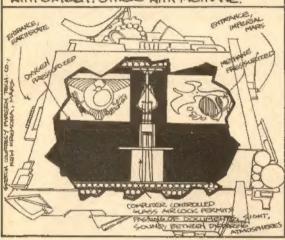
THE TRANSPORT BRAKED AT 1500 METERS-FROM "NEUTRAL CORNER". EARTHSTATE DELEGATION DEBARKED AND JETPAKED SLOWLY TOWARD IT.



MARTIAN SHUTTLECRAPT FIRED IT'S RETROS.
A HISS OF ESCAPING METHANE, AND FIVE
OFFICIALS OF IMPERIAL MARTIAN CONTROL
WAFTED INTO THE INKY SILENCE...



BASIC STRUCTURE WAS STANDARD EARTHSTATE TEMPORARY ONE-ROOM DEEP-SPACE SHELTER, DIVIDING IT IN HALF WAS MARTIAN GLASS AIRLOCK MARK 7288-2008, ONE SIDE PRESSURIZED WITH OXYGEN, OTHER, WITH METHANE.



HONEYWELL GRAVMASTER "M ULTRAGEE II GENERATED ARTIFICIAL GRAVITATIONAL FIELD WITHOUT ATMOSPHERE, WITHOUT GRAVITY, INK WOULD NOT FLOW; TREATY COULD NOT BE SIGHED.



AIRLOCKS SUD NOISELESSLY SHUT. COMPUTER PRESSURIZED THEM, THEN SPOKE.





FOR FIRST TIME, EARTHUNG AND MARTIAN FACED EACH OTHER. WITHOUT WEAPON IN HAND.



































TOTALLY OUTRAGEOUS!
THE SLIMEY BASTARDS
DON'T WANT PEACE!
THEY WANT AN EXCUSE
FOR WAR! HOT WAR!



THERE ARE NO PROVISIONS FOR THIS IN THE AROTOCOL, MISS



I'VE TOLD THEM AS MUCH. THEY ASSUMED THAT BEINGS OF HONOR COMMIT A BART OF THEMSELVES TO ALL FORMAL CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS, IT'S IMPLICIT WITH TH...



"THEY ASSLIME"!
I'M NOT STICKING
SOME GOOLESS
MARTIAN THINGAMAJIG IN MY ARM!
I MOVE WE WALK!

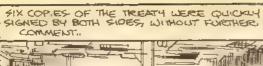




THE EARTHMEN ARGUED FOR SOME MINITES THEN, ONE BY ONE, THEIR VOICES FELL SLENT...

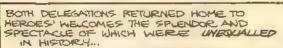
SO WE'RE GOING TO STAKE AN ENTIRE PLANET ON

H. CHRIST.



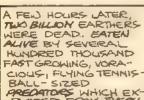












FAST GROWING, VORA-CIOUS, FLYING TENNIS-BALL- SIZED PREDATORS WHICH EX-PLODED FROM ENERY SQUARE WICH OF THE DIPLOMAT'S BODIES ...



THE WOMAN, WEST, WAS PROMISED HIGH POSITION IN THE NEW ORDER IF SHE COULD GET DIPLOMATS TO EXPOSE BLOOD TO AVR, WHICH CONTAINED BIOLOGICAL MEAPON (NOT HYPODERMIC ACUAYS THINKING ...)



ON MARS WE HAVE SAVING! PUT YOUR TRUST IN THE GODS, BUT KEEP YOUR BUREAUCRATS AND YOUR BROADS AT HOME!!

LITTLE LATE FOR THAT NOW, THOUGH, 154"



MY THREE BROTHERS, (BLOB, BRAP, AND FLEETH), MY PARENTS AND I LIVED ON A FORTIFIED ISLAND. IT WAS A SENSIVE, STRATEGIC SPECK IN A VAST OCEAN; A BULWARK AGAINST COMMUNIST INVASION.



INEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT, IT SEEMED SO MATURAL BUT WE FOUR BOYS KEPT A"SHIPLIST," A LIST OF EVERY SHIP THAT CAME TO THE ISLAND. IT WAS OUR "HOBBY". HOW CONVENIENT THAT OUR HOUSE SAT RIGHT AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE HARBOR.



OUR HOUSE WAS ALSO IN THE FLIGHT PATHS OF TWO MAJOR AIRFIELDS, OUR DAD ENCOUR-AGED US TO KEEP A"PLANE UST," A UST OF ALL THE DIFFERENT AIRCRAFT WE SAW, IT ALL SEEMED INNOCENT ENOUGH...



UNTIL ONE NIGHT I SAT UP IN BED, FINALLY REALIZING THE IMPORT OF ALL THE LISTS WE HAD BEEN KEEPING!



HOW COW! IF THE COM MUNISTS EVER GOT THEIR HANDS ON OUR LISTS, THE ISLAND ... I MEAN OUR COUN-TRY, WOULD FALL IN A DAY!

I SCRAMBLEP OUT OF BED AND RAN OYER TO OUR "TREASURE CHEST" TO SEE IF THE LISTS WERE SAFE AND SOUND, BUT



THEN I NOTICED ... MY 3 BROTHERS WERE MISSING FROM THEIR BUNK BEDS. I RAN TO MY PARENTS ROOM...



.. BUT THEY WERENT THERE EITHER!



NOW LISSEN YOUNG MAN, WE KNOW THESE TRAITORS ARE YOUR FAMILY, WE CAVEHT EM ON THE BEACH WITH A SIGNALING PEVICE... PROBABLY CONTACTING A COMMIE SUBMARINE! THEY WONT TALK, WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT A "LIST"?



I HEARD NOISES IN THE STREET...
MILITARY POLICE HAD EVERYOWE;
MOM, DAB, BLOB, BRAP AND FLEFTH, RT
GUNPOINT. I COULD GUESS WHY. THE
COMMANDER OF THE M.P.S. SAW ME
AND SHOUTED...



JUST THEN, HUNDREDS OF COMMUNISTS BURST FROM THE DARKNESS AND GUNNED DOWN THE MILITARY POLICE BEFORE OUR VERY EYES.



THE INVADING COMMUNISTS GREETED MY FAMILY LIKE... LIKE OLD FRIENDS SO IT WAS TRUE, I HAD BEEN RIGHT ALL ALONG, MY FAMILY WAS A FAMILY OF COMMIE SPIES!



YOUR SIGNALS
ASSURED THE
SUCCESS OF OUR
ATTACK! NOW,
LET US HAVE "LISTS"
OF IMPERIALIST
SHIP AND PLANE
MOVEMENTS! BUT
WAIT! WHO IS THAT
BOY OVER THERE?





I COULD NOT HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR WHAT HAPPENED NEXT I THOUGHT I WAS A GONER FOR SURE, BUT THE LEADER OF THE COMMUNIST DID NOT SHOOT. IN FACT HE SMILED ... AWD CHERED! AND THEN ALL THE OTHER COMMIES STARTED TO JUMP UP AND DOWN AND CHEER.



AND THEN, AN EVEN MORE INCREDIBLE THING HAPPENED, THEY PEELED OFF THEIR FACES!



LISTEN GLUG, WE WILL EXPLAIN
EVERYTHING. YOU SEE, THE MARTIANS
NEED A NEW KING, AND YOU HAVE BEEN
A CONTINUOUS TESTING PROCESS. WE
MANIPULATED EVENTS INSUCH A WAY
THAT YOU HAD TO MAKE GRUCIAL DECISIONS.
TONIGHT YOU PROVED TO US THAT, WHEN
THE CHIPS WERE DOWN YOU WOULD PROTECT
YOUR FAMILY, AND LATER EVEN THOUGH YOU
FACED DEATH, YOU WOULD REMAIN TRUE TO
YOUROWN IDEALS. WE ARE PROUD TO CHLYOUKING!



NOU MEAN MY FAMILY ISN'T REAL?

NHAT ABOUT ONLY ACTORS!
THE 5 OLDIERS
YOU KILLED?

ROBOTS!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND?
WHATS GOING ON HERE?
WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME
KING GLUG? WHAT
TEST DID I PASS?
MOM? DAD?

B-BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SHIPS. THE PLANES AND BUILDINGS? THE PEOPLE ON THE STREETS?



... SOMETIMES OF COURSE WE HAD TO CONSTRUCT ENTIRE BUILDINGS, EVEN CITIES! OUR LAST KING WAS A REAL STICKLER FOR DETAIL!



IT TOOK HUNDREDS OF BAR RACKS TO HOUSE THE THOUSANDS OF EKTRAS IT TOOK TO FILL YOUR WORLD!



"Y-YOU MEAN I'M THE ONLY HUMAN ON EARTH?
NOT EXACTLY, GLUG, YOU SEE THERE'S NO, SUCH THING AS EARTH! YOU'VE REALLY BEEN LIVING ON AN ASTEROLD WE FIXED UP FOR YOU!



BUT DON'T FEEL BAD, YOU HAVE ANEW WORLD, ONE TO CALL YOUR OWN...

END



OF THE





MANSIONS IN PURSUIT OF A GLIP PHOTON-GUN CONVOY!













WE WUZ PART OF THE THIRD ARMY (EARTH)
ON SPECIAL OPERATIONS ON THE MOON.
OUR JOB WAS TO HARASS THE GLIPS
AND DISPUPT THEIR COMMUNICATIONS....



"..THE TROUBLE WAS, WE WERE LUCKY
IF WE EVEN SAW THEM. THEY COULD
FADE IN AND OUT OF A LANDSCAPE
LIKE THEY WUZ MADE OUTA STEAM!





TO WAS THE SAME ALL TH'TIME "WE'D SPEND DAYS TRAILING A GLIP HITSQUAD, AND THEY'D JUST "VANISH! WE SHUFFLED BACK TO MOON CITY MANSIONS...

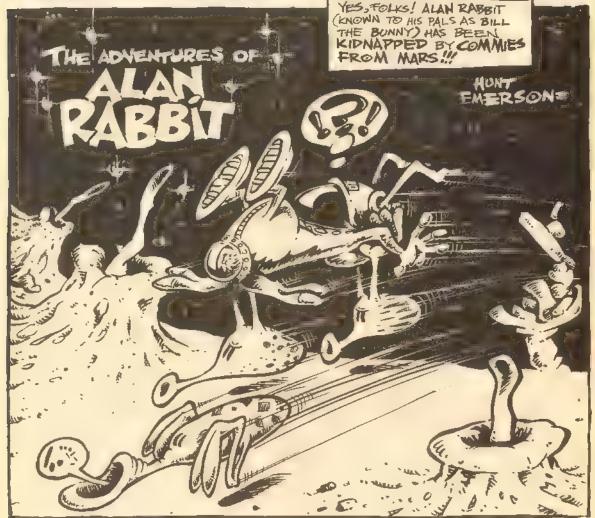




























EARTH HAS KNOWN SOME CHANGES IN THE PAST 10,000 YEARS...THE
NATURAL RESOURCES WERE ALL USED UP BY 2003, AND FOURS HAD TO ADAPT...
THEN THERE WAS A MAJOR NUCLEAR ACCIDENT, A MAJOR NUCLEAR SABOTAGE, AND
A MAJOR NUCLEAR WAR ALL IN THE SAME YEAR, 2031, AND FOLKS HAD TO ADAPT
TO THAT...THERE WAS THE MASS PSYCHOSIS AND GENERAL MAYHEM OF THE MUTANT PURGES OF THE 3DTH CENTURY, AND, INDUITABLY, THE MUTANT REVOLT OF THE 31ST
CENTURY, AND FOLKS CERTAINLY HAD TO ADAPT TO THAT... AND THEN, OF COURSE, THE
COMING OF THE 2ND ICE AGE, AND AGAIN, FOLKS HAD TO ADAPT... SO WHEN THOSE
COMMIE TYPES ARRIVED FROM THE PLANET MARS... WELL, LIKE I SAID...
EARTH HAS KNOWN SOME CHANGES IN THE PAST 10,000 YEARS...





HE MARTIAN COMMIES JUST CAME

DESPITE HEAVY LOSES, THE TERRAN ARMY STEADFASTLY REDUCED THE COMMIE HORDE TO A HANDFUL!—THAT HANDFUL, HOWEVER, WAS A DETERMINED BUNCH...

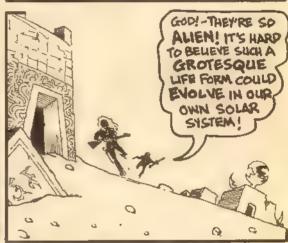


















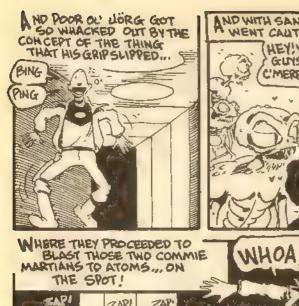














AND JORG PERSUADED A FEW LEATHER-HECKS TO FOLLOW HIM BACK DOWN TO THE COMPUTER ROOM...



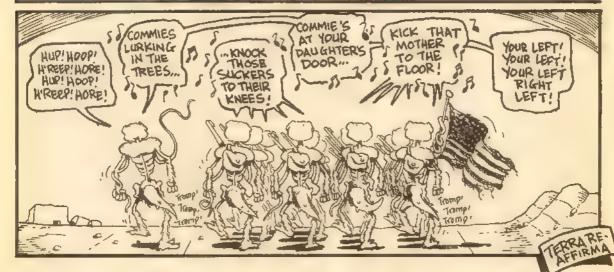


AND EXCEPT FOR A FEW THAT GOT UP INTO THE HILLS AND MOST LIKELY FROZE TO DEATH, THAT WAS THE END OF THAT ..



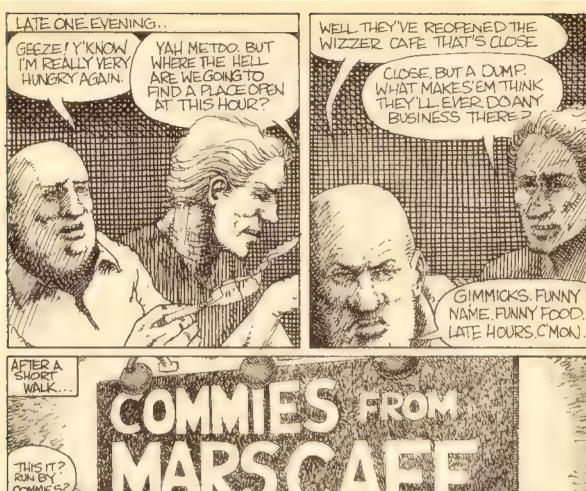
... AND LIKE THEY SAY: A DEAD MARTIAN ISA DAMN FINE MARTIAN!

A'RITE, YOU SOFT-SOAP SISSIES! LETS MOVEOUT!

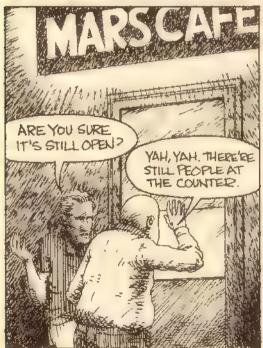




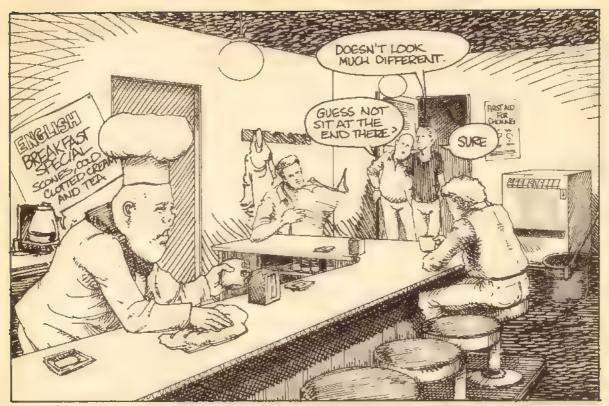




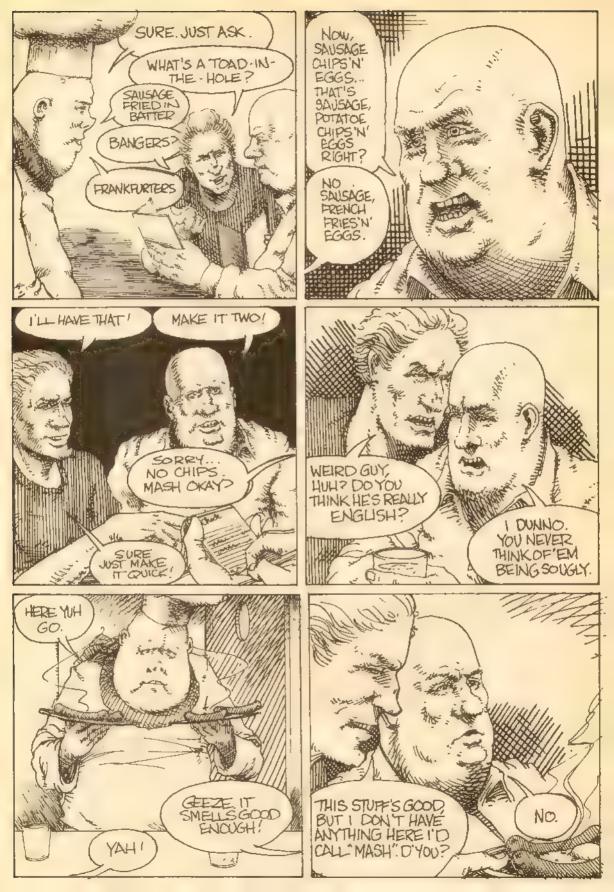


























SHAWN

YEP, THIS IS THE PLACE, HEAVILY ARMED STRIKE FORCES COME HERE FROM ALLOVER THE UNIVERSE.



...TO SET UP COMMAND POSTS, OBJECTIVE: DESTROY EARTH, BUT NONE OF EMS DONE IT, YET.



THEY SIT UP HERE JERKIN OFF. GO LIMP, AN THEN JUST LEAVE. BUT THOSE RED MARTIANS CAMPED OVER THERE ...



MIGHT BE DIFFERENT! PRETTY FORMIDABLE LOOKIN. THEY DE-MANDED MY SPECIFICATIONS ON HOW TO BLOW UP EARTH!



I SAYS "FUCK YOU, COMMIES!"
SPECT ME TO HELP YA TURN
MY FAVORITE SATELLITE INTO
SO MANY SMOULDERING
ASTEROIDS?



NO TELLIN' WHERE ME AND MOON'LL END UP ONCE THE GRAVITATIONAL BALANCE IS CONE!



THEY KEPT SAYIN' THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF ME, THEYRE A KIND, GENEROUS PEOPLE... IF I SCRATCH THEIR BACK, ET CETERA



STILL I REFUSED! THEY SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD, WOULDN'T DREAM OF FORCING ME TO LIVE THEIR. WAY OF LIFE, IF I REALLY DIDN'S





